

# REPORT

ON THE

## REVISED SETTLEMENT

OF THE

## MOOLTAN DISTRICT,

IN THE

## MOOLTAN DIVISION.

EFFECTED BY

J. H. MORRIS, ESQ., C. S.

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*PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY*

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TO THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

*Punjab.*

*Dated LAHORE, 23rd August 1860.*

SIR,

REVENUE.

(Mooltan Settlement Report.)

175 of 18th Ultimo, from Commissioner Mooltan, to Financial Commissioner.

No. 29 of 24th Feb. 1859 from Mr. J. H. Morris Settlement Officer to Commissioner Mooltan.

† Appendices A to J, 24 Statements, and one Map.

The report reached me on the 18th ultimo.

I have the honor to forward the Settlement Report\* of the Mooltan District, with enclosures and map noted in the Margin.†

2.— The professional survey was conducted by Lieutenant C. F. Anderson in 1856 and 1857, but the maps have not yet been issued.

3.— The settlement has been conducted by Mr. J. Morris: he broke ground in February 1855, and made his report in February 1859, when he left for Europe. A considerable amount of detail was left to be disposed of under the superintendence of Lieutenant Colonel Hamilton the Commissioner, who, as an old District officer, knew the District well, has maintained a close supervision throughout, and now furnishes a report. All the appeals to this office have now been disposed of, and operations of every kind have come to a conclusion.

4.— The district is situated at the southern extremity of the Baree Doab, between the rivers Sutlej, Ravee, and Cheenab. A small portion of one Tehseel lies across the Ravee in the Rechnab Doab, having been detached since the first Sum-

mary Settlement from the Jhung district. It embraces an area of 5866 square miles, much of which is barren and waste, and is divided into five\*

Mooltan.  
Seohabad.  
Ludran.  
Mylsee.  
Serai Siddhoo.

Tehseels, three on the Cheenab, and two on the Sutlej. It contains one city of note, Mooltan, which has no doubt a great destiny before it, and will be to Western, what Allahabad is to Eastern India. At this

point the Railway will terminate, and the River Steam communication commence.

5.— When Maharajah Runjeet Sing succeeded in expelling the Mahomedan Nawabs, who in the decadence of the Former Fiscal History. Empire made themselves independent of Delhie, the whole of this district came under the enlightened rule of Deewan Sawun Mul, from whose time all fiscal arrangements date. When his son Moolraj rebelled, and was taken prisoner, a summary Settlement was made in 1849 by Mr. Edgeworth and Lieutenant H. James. This lasted to 1854, and was very unequal. It was succeeded by a second Summary Settlement, conducted by the Deputy Commissioners Mr. Henderson and Major Hamilton, which granted some reduction, and has worked fairly. This lasted till 1858, when Mr. Morris' new assessment came into force, which it is proposed to continue for (10) ten years.

6.— For purposes of assessment three Chuks, or natural topographical division, were formed, with more or less precision in each Tehseel:

- I Sylaba— low lands, subject to the influence of the River.
- II Highlands— or Bar.
- III Intermediate.

It appears that classes were adopted in two Tehseels, owing to the varying character or position of the villages.

7.— The result of the Settlement is a very considerable reduction, about eighteen per cent. The Commissioner Fiscal Results. thinks that the reduction is more than was necessary however, under the peculiar circumstances of the district, it is a fault on

the right side ; the reasons for fixing a light assessment are given in Mr. Morris' report, and are as follows :—

I. Absence of trade. II. Want of markets. III. Inferiority of soil. IV. Variable nature of River irrigation. V. Prevalence of nomad tribes. VI. Uncertainty and insufficiency of canals. VII. Scantiness of population, and emigrations to Buhawlpore. VIII. Low value of property. IX. Fixedness of new jumas. X. Amount of land lately abandoned.

Now all these evils, with the exception of the fourth, may be expected gradually to lose their force or cease altogether. The former juma stood at Rs. 5,79,000, and is now reduced to Rs. 4,70,000.

8.—Irrigation is everything to this District : the difference of quality of soil counts for nothing—the difference of mode of irrigation is of importance. There are generally

three kinds :— I, Sylab, or flood of Rivers ; II, Inundation Canals or cuts from the rivers ; III, Wells. Those lands which enjoy a combination of both are most highly assessed, as the Spring crop is secured by the wells, while the Autumn crop derives advantage from the flood of the canals, the waters of which are either introduced at a level, or what is technically called “ Puggo,” or lifted up by the Persian wheels called “ Jhulars.”

9.—Many of the crops produced are first class, such as Indigo, Sugar, and Cotton ; no less than 48,000 begahs produce Indigo, and the unlimited extension of that product depends only on the canals. More than ten thousand maunds is the annual outturn. The cultivating classes are generally inferior : the Mahomedan Juts, who are the ancestral landowners, have been depressed by an inroad of Puthans, and Syuds, idle, needy, and unskilful. In some quarters rich and enterprising castes have introduced themselves, and to them the District is mainly indebted for its fertility.

10.—The jumas were readily accepted, there have been no farms, and no abandonment of leases. Attention was paid to the subject of appointing Lumberdars, and the principle, which guided Mr. Morris is correct. They are perhaps too numerous and their number must be gradually reduced : each owner of a well would prefer paying his revenue direct.

The rates of assessment fall as follows per acre :

|                    | <i>On Cultivation</i> | <i>On assessable<br/>area.</i> | <i>On total<br/>area.</i> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mooltan,.....      | 1 1 3                 | 0 6 5                          | 0 4 11                    |
| Shoojabad,.....    | 1 14 7                | 0 13 2                         | 0 9 9                     |
| Ludran,.....       | 1 2 3                 | 0 6 4                          | 0 4 4                     |
| Mylsee,.....       | 0 13 1                | 0 4 3                          | 0 2 9                     |
| Serai Siddhoo,.... | 0 11 3                | 0 3 4                          | 0 2 9.                    |

11.—Great pains were taken in preparing and attesting the Khewut; and owing to the complication of tenures the task was unusually difficult. The Putwaries were employed in the measurements, and annual papers will this year be filed. The settlement record has been prepared on a reduced and simplified model, for which improvement Mr. Morris deserves great credit. All Revenue freeholdings have been disposed of.

12.—The Commissioner and Mr. Morris differ on the mode of settling the extensive Sylaba land. Mr. Morris, in obedience to the positive orders of Mr. Mcleod supported by the opinion of Sir J. Lawrence, has assessed the whole at low rates, so as to secure the collection in ordinary seasons, subject to the usual relief granted by the rules regarding diluvian. Mr. Morris has also provided a certain scale of reductions in case of a general failure of the flood. The Commissioner, on the other hand, would have maintained the system introduced at the second Summary Settlement of annual measurements of the whole tract, and assessment at certain rates. The reason for this is, that the outturn of these lands is, in the opinion of the Commissioner so variable, that no assessment can in some years be paid, while in other years the profit to the landowner is enormous. Mr. Morris distinctly records his opinion, that the Sylab lands are not so variable as to prevent a light juma being paid, and he has accordingly assessed the whole.

13.—Amidst the conflict of opinions of local officers, with considerable ability and experience on both sides, I rejoice that a plan has been adopted, which is consistent with what, in my opinion, is the only expedient course. It is true that we may in

Khewut and Record.

Treatment of Sylaba lands.

Advantage of course adopted.

some years lose revenue, but the loss is a gain to the material interests of the people, if that revenue were only to be attained by annual measurements on a gigantic scale, with all the attendant inconvenience, and malpractices. It is true that Mr. Morris' expedient of remission is but a half measure, but he remarks with justice, that the experience of the last ten years has not shown much variation in the collections, and after all much must be left to the judgment of the District officer. At any rate for the term of this settlement let us give the system a trial. It is early to seek finality in the revenue arrangements of a newly conquered country. With regard to the question of Diluvial and Alluvial general rules are now under consideration.

14.—Another question of interest, on which the Commissioner holds very decided opinions, is the alleged absence in this District of Village communities, which would justify the enforcement of our village system of revenue administration. This is a very important subject; any divergence from fixed principles at this period would leave a permanent trace, and hamper the Deputy Commissioner in his collections. Mr. Morris classes his villages in the well known families of Zemindaree, and Byachara,—sometimes a little complicated from the changes of possession, but still maintaining the chief characteristics. I am glad to find that along the rivers, where population and cultivation have attained a degree of permanence, “common land” exists, and regular communities: here we have thus proof, that there is nothing in the physical features of the country, or in the customs of the people, to render this development impossible.

15.—As we retire from the the River and approach the Bar, or barren dorsal ridge, we lose all trace of these communities. Each well has its separate owner unconnected with its neighbour,—often a separate hamlet or hut, with no common land, interests, or homestead, no ties of race, religion, or kindred. But this is just what we should expect: these people are the pioneers of civilization, the squatters in the primeval forest. Gradually, however, the ramparts of a municipality will be formed round them; we have now given them a defined village area, and a joint property in the jungle, to the exclusion

of others. The owners of patches and wells are represented by headmen ; the ties of fellowship and mutual advantage will draw them together ; the law of joint responsibility will bring with it the right of pre-emption. As cultivation, population, and wealth extend, these infant communities will develop themselves on one of the well known types—perhaps streaked by some local peculiarities. Such has been the mode by which in the old settled tracts of the Gangetic valley, the village community has come into existence, and by an innate vitality has survived empires and dynasties. .

16.—Mr. Morris has carefully described and defined the Chak-daree tenure, and the nature of that heritable and transferable property called “ Kusoor.” If we look below the surface of things, and are not blinded by names, there is nothing new, or strange, in this incident of the ordinary tenures. Property, labour, and capital are the three great instruments of civilization. Some few combine the three attributes,—possess their land, till it with their strong arms, and have a sufficient surplus stock to supply the capital to buy seed, and oxen, sink wells, and keep them in gear. In other cases, where wealth has accumulated, we find property and capital united, and labor invited in the form of the cultivator, who is located on the estate of the rich landowner. But in districts, where property has been shaken, and landowners impoverished, capital has to be enticed by the offer of interest, a share of the property, or a share of the net profits. In England large sums are borrowed for the purpose of draining and erecting farm buildings : the loan is paid by a rent charge fixed on the land, so adjusted, that in the course of a period, not only is the interest paid, but a sinking fund is formed, by which the whole debt is gradually paid off.

17.—In Mooltan a permanent encumbrance is fixed on the estate, or a permanent alienation takes place of a portion of the soil. Capital makes its own terms. It may be that the proprietor still cultivates his acres, and pays a rent charge to the capitalist, who has sunk his well ; or, the capitalist himself cultivates by his own oxen, or his own cultivators, and pays a quit rent to the proprietor, now no longer enjoying the right of cultivation, or the right of

management. In the first case the Zemindar is the Malgoozar, and the "Kussoor-khwah" is nothing but a mortgagee annuitant; in the latter, the "Kussoor khwah" is the Malgoozar, and the Zemindar is a Talooqahdar. But this incident of impoverished property does not affect the original tenure, any more than the introduction of a mortgagee, a lessee, a tenant, until the management changes hand: and, when that has taken place, the *de jure* proprietors receive their quit rent, and the *de facto* possessors manage the estate. There is nothing exceptional in this phenomenon of the weak exhausted race giving way to the strong and vigorous; it occurs all over the Punjab.

18.—No one can fail to remark, that a settlement of a District like Mooltan is a very different thing from one in the rich and densely populous tracts of the upper Doab. I have had before me the settlement operations of Sealkote, Goojeranwala, Jhung, and Mooltan, and have tried to trace how the physical features of the country have modified the tenures. Race and bad government have not been without their effect. In unsettled times, and bad seasons, cultivation shrunk, but prosperity still existed though, in name only. As affairs began to settle, the government took a position which has trespassed on property. Cultivators were located by the Kardar, with leases guaranteed by Sunuds; the fatal practice of division of the crops and appraisement was enforced; the Jagheerदार, that curse of the landowner, was let loose among the community; the village system, if it ever existed has been set aside with a view of increasing the revenue. The owner in despair has invited the capitalist, who, once a footing obtained, is not to be shaken off; the power of mortgage has been stretched to an extent approaching sale, being conditional, usufructuary, or on account. The introduction of new races, armed with political power, has added to the confusion, which was perpetuated by a lax phraseology, the absence of all trustworthy record, and a desire on the part of many to keep up the old undefined state affairs rather than be judicially outlawed.

19.—Upon this fermenting mass has dropped our settlement, trying to reduce to principles most incongruous elements,—to maintain possession, yet not crush it.



mant rights,—to uphold contracts, and yet not work out injustice,—to give property, capital, and labor, their dues. In my opinion the regular Settlement has come on this part of the country too quickly: it would have been better to have let such matters adjust themselves under the loose discipline of the Summary Settlement, than to compel every body to declare and define their status. If the scores of cases that have come in appeal to this office are fair samples, the judicial work of the settlement has by no means been discharged satisfactorily. The elements for decision were strange, the issues raised unusual, the proofs vague and startling. Wells, and fractions of wells, appear to have become a medium of exchange, without a statement of area and soil; claims long worn out by lapse of time, or rendered uncertain by breach of custom, were hazarded; Sunuds of a ruler, or Kardar, produced as a proof of property. I consider that a wise discretion should, during the next ten years, be used by the Financial Commissioner, in allowing a re-trial in many cases where the issues have been wrongly drawn, and the nature of the case misunderstood by the parties.

20.—Mr. Morris comments severely on the general inefficiency of the Canal arrangements, and the Commissioner agrees with him;—yet on them depends the well being of the District. The cultivation of Indigo appears to have fallen off from neglect of the Canals. A valuable memo. on this crop is given in an Appendix to the Report. Mr. Morris alludes to a report on the Canals which is doubtless in your office, and I trust that some energetic measures will be taken this season.

21.—In addition to the assessed village areas, leave is given to sink wells in the Government waste lands on leases : there are also rain crops, in favourable years, in portions of the Bar, which are collected kham. Add to this the farms of the grazing tax, and the Jungle produce, such as Trinnet, Goolkessoo, and Maieen. All these are separate from, and independent of, the settlement now under report. The produce of date groves has been included in the village assessment, and in two Tuhseels

Inefficiency of Canal arrangements.

Extra Sources of Revenue.

the whole of the Baranee lands have been granted to a farmer :—the Revenue is included in the jama of the district.

22.—The assessment now recommended for sanction has worked well for two years : it is unquestionably light.

The assessment light.

I rejoice in this fact : our Panjauß settlements have all been pitched too high. We forgot the character of the Government whom we succeeded, and on whose statistics we mainly depended. Ten years of an easy assessment will give an expansion to agricultural interests; the advantages of fixed cash assessments will display themselves; the proprietors, confident of their position, will locate cultivators on advantageous terms; we shall hear no more of cultivators absconding to Bahawalpore. More capital will be invested in land, and, as Mooltan has a great future before it, new markets for produce will be opened. I do not recommend any large grants of tuccavee to this district :—if we keep the Canals in good order, we shall have done our duty as a Government. The existence of these Chukdars shows that capital will be forthcoming, if required.

23.—Mr. Morris deserves the commendation of Government for a very careful and good settlement, based on sound

Mr. Morris.

principles, and most clearly and fully reported. I have great pleasure in recording my favourable opinion of his labours, and his remarks on his mode of assessment appear to be very just. He is decidedly one of our best Revenue officers.

24.—Colonel Hamilton, the Commissioner, has occupied towards this settlement a much closer relation than falls to the majority of Commissioners. Mr. Morris consulted him

Colonel Hamilton.

throughout, Colonel Hamilton had himself made a careful Summary settlement of two Tahseels, accompanied by reports, to which Mr. Morris refers as anticipating his own labours. Colonel Hamilton's knowledge of the Mooltan District exceeds that of any other officer, and to his careful supervision the Government is much indebted.

25.—I beg to recommend this settlement for sanction for ten (10) years from the date on which the assessments were introduced, or until a new settlement.

Conclusion.

I have &c.,

R. N. C U S T,

*Offg. Finl. Comr.*

NO. 178 OF 1860.

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,

*Mooltan Division,*

*The 16th of July 1860.*

To

THE FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER,

FOR THE PUNJAB.

SIR,

I have the honor to transmit the Settlement Statements and report of the Mooltan District.

2.—Prior to Mr Morris' departure for Europe he left with me a very copious report: this is now forwarded with its appendices. These contain most ample information; and I shall therefore confine myself to a statement of the work concluded since his departure, to supplying what he has omitted, to remarking on those portions of his report which require notice, and to general observations on the Settlement.

3.—At the time of Mr. Morris' departure a considerable portion of the Settlement work remained to be completed. This has now been accomplished, and a statement of the work executed is annexed. The completion of the Settlement was consigned to me under the authority noted in the margin.

4.—The first matter in Mr. Morris' report, to which I shall refer, is the subject of the assessment of the Sylaba lands, or rather of the lands situate within the influence of the rivers, and liable to great variations of

Government letter No 187  
of 17th February, received  
with Finl. Commissioner's  
No. 660 of 21st idem.

productiveness, from excess, or deficiency of inundation, and to numberless accidents which affect their character, either permanently, or temporarily,—such as abrasion, alluvion, overflowing, change from fertility to sterility, and the contrary, by the deposition of sand or mud, and change of means of irrigation.

5.—Mr. Morris disapproves of the system of annual measurement (or more properly of annual survey), which was introduced at the second Summary Settlement, and, in accordance with the positive instructions of the Chief Commissioner and Financial Commissioner, has assessed these lands at rates, which, from their lightness, are to ensure the realization of the revenue under every circumstance of accident or variation, except, as I understand, actual abrasion. It is possible that to a certain extent this object may be realized, and that for a series of years, the revenue may be fully collected, except in cases of abrasion. But this has been gained at an immense sacrifice of revenue.

6.—These rates are certainly not medium, and still less maximum; so that, if not actually minimum, they are considerably below the average rates of collections of a series of years from actual cultivation. The loss therefore to the state must be excessive, and is probably not less than 20 per cent. on the above mentioned average rates.

7.—This may appear improbable, but, for a stranger it is difficult to understand the immense variation of productiveness to which some lands in this District are subject. Instances are known when tracts of land of 10,000 acres, after lying unproductive for many years, have in a single season become fertile, and after a few years have again relapsed to their former sterility. To assess such lands permanently with anything like revenue is positively impracticable.

8.—But the Settlement Officer is still not satisfied that even his assessment will stand the test of a lengthened period, and he has devised a scheme—in some measure a modification of the system of the second summary settlement,—which, he considers, will provide for these extraordinary occasions, when from failure of water &c. even his very moderate assessment will be incapable of realization.

9.—When the entire crop fails there will be no difficulty in putting this scheme into effect. It will be simply giving an entire remission of the revenue, but if the scheme is to apply to seasons when the failure is only partial, I do not understand how it is to be brought into operation, except by having recourse to measurement, or survey, the very contingencies which he proposed to avoid.

10.—It will thus be seen that under Mr. Morris' scheme the Government can never gain anything from the accidental, or rather occasional, fertilization of lands by deposits or other causes, while it is provided, that in some seasons there may be an entire loss to the State, of even the moderate revenue assessed on these lands. I do not think, therefore, that the new system proposed by Mr. Morris is in any way preferable to that which he has condemned.

11.—The system of variable assessment has been recently briefly described in my letter to your address, No. 160, of the 3rd Instant, and I need not now recapitulate my observations. But I must remark upon Mr. Morris' allusion to the annual loss which Government sustained under the system of the second Settlement. It is perfectly true that there was a loss on the aggregate, but, on the other hand, there was an actual increase in several villages, which under Mr Morris' arrangements would not have been obtained. The survey too had not been made, and from want of correct plans it was not easy to ascertain properly where increase and decrease had occurred. The Regular Settlement also had been announced, and it was not the object of the cultivators to increase their cultivation when the Survey and measurement were close at hand. Even under these circumstances the loss to Government in Mooltan was proportionally less than in Jhung, where the old system prevailed.

12.—There can be no doubt that the former assessments pressed rather heavily on the district, and at the time of the regular settlement reduction was advisable. The first settlement had been based on the collections of the former Government, and that system was not properly understood. The result was that, exclusive of the sudden conversion of payments in kind into payments in cash, and the fall in prices, the unequal distribution of the assessment caused great distress. A well, actual-

ly producing about 25 Rs. was assessed at 150, while one afterwards assessed at 300, only paid 50 Rs. In these instances there had been no increase or decrease of cultivation. It arose simply from misunderstanding the system of assessment in use under the Nazims. The 2nd Settlement remedied many of these defects, and with all its faults was superior to any Summary settlement made in this Division; but it was founded on no correct measurements, nor were there any data which could be entirely trusted. The distress alluded to by Mr. Morris existed almost wholly during the period of the 1st settlement, and what remained during the second period was rather the result of former errors, than the effect of the second settlement. Another cause of distress during the period of the 1st settlement was the want of any system for granting relief to cultivators, whose land had become unproductive from the changes on the banks of the rivers. At that period of our occupation the real character of these lands was not known, and applications for relief from the sufferers did not meet with the attention which they deserved, and which, doubtless, would have been granted, had the authorities been aware, of the true facts. The emigrations to Bawalpoor took place at that time, but I do not think that any occurred during the period of the second settlement, as the new system allowed of the immediate grant of relief.

13. The other circumstances which Mr. Morris has enumerated as proofs of over-assessment are not wholly to be ascribed to that cause. Many of the sales and mortgages were the result of the operations of the Civil Courts. Prior to annexation no regular civil tribunals existed, although claims for debts &c. were occasionally settled by the Nazims and their subordinates. As soon as our civil courts were opened, and their power became known, they were freely resorted to, and claims of every length of standing were brought before them: the trader now found that he had a certain means of recovering his dues from his agricultural debtor, and he did not hesitate to give him further credit, till at last the debt could be discharged only by sale or mortgage. The previous announcement of the intended regular settlement had also the effect of inducing many cultivators to throw land out of cultivation.

14. Coinciding therefore with Mr. Morris in regard to the

necessity of a considerable reduction of assessment. I do not entirely ascribe the existence of this necessity to the over-assessment of former years, and I also consider it very possible that with a smaller reduction the district would have still prospered. Every village contains immense tracts of improvable land, and what was chiefly wanted was security of possession, and the assurance that there would be no increase of assessment for a lengthened period. There are also strong political reasons for a light assessment too obvious to require expression. The good effect of this moderation was very conspicuous during the recent disturbances in the Jhung District, where the lightly assessed cultivators contrasted favorably in their loyalty with their pastoral fellow countrymen.

15.—I have the honor to solicit your attention to Mr. Morris' description of the tenures in the Mooltan District, contained in the 26th and subsequent paragraphs of his report, and in the appendices. Mr. Morris' details very generally coincide with what I have more succinctly expressed in a recent communication to you, and which I previously laid before your predecessors in various letters and reports. Mr. Morris' observations fully shew the non-existence of village communities, and the incoherent nature of the subordinate fiscal divisions. His descriptions of what he terms a "bhyacharah" tenure confirm, I think, my opinion that it is merely the result of the division of land according to Mahomedan law. He appears to have overlooked one kind of tenure, which, however, is not very common in Mooltan, but prevails more generally in Jhung. I allude to the system "Hath Rakhace." This system was in use under the Sikh government: a Mahomedan proprietor finding he could not withstand the exactions of the Hindoo Kardars, made over his entire estate to one of that class, reserving to himself a portion of the proceeds only. In process of time the Hindoo, betraying his trust, acquired absolute possession of the lands, and the ousted proprietor could obtain no redress until the fall of the Sikh government. When this did not occur, the Hindoo had from long possession acquired great interest in the estate, which he generally had improved, and it was hardly fair to consider him a mere tenant-at-will. Some difficulty was at first experienced in disposing of these cases, but they were usually adjusted by mu-

tual agreement. The person in possession either restored the whole estate on payment of the cost of improvement, or took a portion in absolute proprietary right as an equivalent, or he allowed the old proprietor a portion of the profits. In some instances, however a want of knowledge of the real circumstances was the cause of injustice.

16.—The selection of lumberdars has been made on proper principles, but it may be considered perhaps that they are too numerous. This however is almost unavoidable. Where each so called village consisted of so many incongruous elements, it was impossible to restrict the Lumberdarship to one or two members. Each section required its representative, and had not this been conceded, endless disputes would have arisen, to the ultimate detriment of the interests of the state.

17.—Mr. Morris' remarks in the 33rd and 34th paras. require some explanation. The system of granting leases of waste lands was based on what had obtained under the former government, and was introduced by Mr. Edgeworth. I had fully carried out the system in Jhunjhunn with great advantage, and on my transfer to Mooltan followed the same course. Several leases were taken with the view of extending the cultivation by the aid of the canals, but their system of management proved a serious obstruction. At the Settlement it became necessary to revise the leases to prevent the ruin of the speculators, and this was done with the consent of the Financial Commissioner. Latterly almost all the extension of cultivation has been effected by new wells.

*Vide Encl. Commr's letter No. 3541 of the 21st October 1857.*

18.—As the control of the Canal Department has been placed immediately under the Punjab Government, it is unnecessary for me to enter into any details of the system, further than in regard to its effect on the Settlement, and the general prosperity of the district. With these it is most intimately connected, but I have, I believe, fully reported on this subject in my letter No. 150 of the 25th June 1860.

19.—Mr. Morris at first proposed to assess the baranee lands yearly, and I coincided in his opinion, but this proposal was overruled by the Financial Commissioner in his despatch No. 915 of the 11th of March



859. The Baranee lands of Mysce have been settled in accordance with this order, but to accomplish this I was obliged to form these scattered patches of cultivation into the two separate Talooks of Khace and Looddun, and to lease them as Talooks to men of influence and responsibility. The assessment, light, as it is, could never have been realized in seasons of drought from the indigent peasantry, who, in favorable years cultivate these patches. The Talooks have been conferred on Gholam Moostapha Khan, Khan Bahadur,—a Native gentleman who has on repeated occasions rendered eminent services to the Government, and who has other interests in that part of the district,—and on certain loyal chiefs of the Bar tribes, who have great influence in that part of the country, and who during the rebellion of 1857 and the mutiny of 1858 rendered special service to the state. In a political view the arrangement is beneficial, and, without causing any loss to Government, it may be the means of extending and improving the cultivation of these now almost barren tracts. In Surree Sidhoo I attempted to make similar arrangements, but none would engage either as Talookdars or otherwise.

20.—It is not necessary to advert to the Tirnee assessment, and the Sujjee or Soda farms, further than to mention that, in accordance with the arrangements sanctioned by the Financial Commissioner in the Jung district, when any Sujjee was produced within the village boundaries, it was included in the sayer, and leased with the land revenue.

21.—The Date tree cess has also been included in the village assessment. There are few other sources of revenue requiring notice. A small amount is realized from the Goolkesoo, or flower of the Palas, or Dak, used as a dye, and from the gall of the Tamarisk termed "Maeen" used as a mordant. These are collected in the jungle lands, and are still farmed annually.

22.—With the view of reducing the number of village papers, simplifying their preparation, and rendering them more suitable to the circumstances of the country, I addressed your predecessor in my letter No. 14 of the 18th January 1858, and the Settlement officer again submitted the proposal in letter to Financial Commissioner No. 61 dated 11th May 1858. To these communications no reply was received, but the proposed modi-

fications were adopted. With the same object the Huftagana papers were reduced to five, on a plan which, I believe, had been suggested by you. The same system has been adopted throughout the Division.

23.—Since Mr Morris' departure I have completed what remained unfinished of the Settlement work. It proved to be more laborious than I expected, when I undertook the completion of the Settlement. There were many complicated cases of long standing to decide, and these were litigated to the last. From having other work to attend to I could not proceed into the district, and therefore, many matters, which ought to have been decided by the Settlement officer, were necessarily left to the Extra Assistant Sham Lall.

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24.—In the meantime I have made arrangements for the correction of the records of those villages in which these frauds have been detected, under the Superintendence of Extra Assistant Massoom Allee, an officer well acquainted with Settlement affairs. Prior to the completion of the Settlement I availed myself of his services, and I am happy to state that I found him a very different person from Sham Lall. He rendered me very valuable assistance.

25.—I ought to have mentioned, before proceeding so far with this report, that in the course of the Settlement it was discovered, that in fixing the boundaries much larger areas than it was advisable or necessary to assign, had been given to several villages. At the request of the Settlement officer I permitted him to revise these areas, and to curtail them when such a course appeared advisable. This was sanctioned by the Financial Commissioner in letter No. 933 of the 11th March 1859. Mr. Morris has accomplished this without interfering with lands which appeared to belong properly to the cultivated estates, but I think he might have exercised greater strictness in his curtailments. There are still many villages to which an enormous extent of waste culturable land is attached, and which might be easily separated without encroaching on the proper rights of the proprietors. The error originated during my ab-

sence in Europe, and was not discovered till after the completion of the Survey.

26.—It cannot be doubted that the Settlement made by Mr. Morris is eminently popular. The assessment is light, and fairly distributed. The rights of every individual have been carefully and diligently investigated, and their true positions assigned. All doubts and difficulties regarding tenures, with their rights, and duties, have been decided, and the errors caused by a want of knowledge of the real circumstances of the country are not likely again to occur. In the course of this report I have adverted to the few instances in which I think improvement might have been effected, but those do not affect the Settlement generally. I have every hope that it will be successful as far as circumstances will permit, and I accordingly beg to recommend its confirmation.

27.—I shall now advert to the five points the observance of which Mr. Morris in his concluding para. considers essential to the stability of his Settlement.

I.—The new system of canal management, if properly carried out, will, I doubt not, be the means of securing as far as possible a constant and sufficient supply of water for purposes of irrigation, but the responsibility now rests entirely with the Canal department, and I have already noticed how Mr. Morris' intentions have been directed.

II.—I am not aware what advantage can result from the mere preparation of monthly lists of deserted wells and uncleared cuts. The knowledge thus obtained will not of itself cause improvement, and it would be very inexpedient to force Tuccavee on the people. We must trust to their own judgment, and knowledge of their wants, and any applications for Tuccavee made on real and substantial grounds will as hitherto, be liberally attended to.

III.—I have already discussed the system of remissions proposed by Mr. Morris, and shewn what I consider to be the difficulties attending the assigning of the proper amount of remission.

IV.—The real difficulty of settling claims on account of diluvian is the want of means to ascertain correctly the extent of loss uncompensated by any increase by alluvion. Suspension of the demand on un-

founded or exaggerated claims is just as objectionable, as the exaction of a sum to be eventually refunded.

V.—This has been disposed of above.

28.—Before proceeding with this report, I would solicit your attention to the revised schedule of revenue establishment submitted with my letter No. 28 of the 31st of January last, recommending the addition of a Sudder Quanoongo, on 40 Rs per mensem, to the establishment.

29.—I have much pleasure in noticing the ability displayed by Mr. Morris in conducting the business of this Settlement. The circumstances of the country presented many peculiar features, which, notwithstanding his long experience as a Settlement officer, must have been new to him. All these difficulties have been disposed of in a manner which will render the future administration of the district a work of comparative ease. In addition to the ordinary business of the Settlement, Mr. Morris had also to draw out a system of assessment for levying labor for the clearing of the canals, which, if properly attended to, will fully effect its object. In the performance of his duties Mr. Morris was attentive, diligent, and careful, and the strict supervision which he exercised over his subordinates became evident, when his departure threw upon me the entire responsibility of management. In my intercourse with Mr. Morris I endeavoured to afford him every assistance in my power. He never failed to consult me, either personally or by letter, on every subject of doubt, and was always ready to take advantage of any information, which, from my long acquaintance with this province, I was able to afford. I consider that Mr. Morris' services demand full acknowledgement from his superiors.

\* \* \*

31. To expedite the work of the Settlement I availed myself of the services of Extra Assistant Massoom Ulee. He rendered me most valuable assistance, and discharged his duties efficiently, and in a trustworthy manner.

32. Among the Tahseeldars the most useful was Moorad Shah Tahseeldar of Mylsee and Lodran. He was most diligent and attentive in the discharge of his duties, and his decisions were generally most suitable and proper. He is certainly the most efficient officer of his rank in

re Division. Byram Khan, Tahseeldar of Shoojahbad, although not conspicuous for ability, did his work creditably and honestly.

33. In the Settlement office I must particularly notice the English Clerk, Baboo Nobin Chundra Banurjya. He is well educated, and writes English in a style, and with a correctness, superior to most of his class. He is thoroughly acquainted with the duties of his office, and has a fair knowledge of Settlement affairs in general. He has discharged his duties with care, attention, and diligence. Without his aid I should have encountered many difficulties in conducting the business of the Settlement. I beg also to refer you to my letter to your predecessor No. 224 dated 3rd August 1859, and subsequent correspondence.

34. Purgas Rae, Sheristadar, is a most worthy and honest officer. He is well acquainted with his duties. While employed under me he in no way falsified the excellent character he obtained from Mr. Morris. When discharged from the Settlement I gave him suitable employment in my own office.

35. It will be observed that the results of the assessment as given by Mr. Morris in the body of his report, differ slightly from those detailed in the Statement. This arises from the following causes.

1st. Changes in the Jamas caused by Alluvion and Diluvion.

2nd. Increase on account of resumed and lapsed rent-free grants.

3rd. Transfer of villages from one Tahseel to another. These took place after he had concluded his report.

36. I omitted to mention in its proper place, that the greater portion of the rent free holdings had been investigated and disposed of prior to the Settlement. The few that remained were reported sometime since, and, as far as can be ascertained, not a single case remains.

37. I have also to request your attention to Mr. Morris' report on the Indigo cultivation of this District. The country is well adapted for the cultivation of this product, and of sugar and cotton, and for these articles a market will always be found in Afghanistan and Central Asia, exclusive of exportation by sea. Hitherto no European

capitalists have engaged in the cultivation of Indigo, although the immense extent of waste lands, and the facilities for the extension of irrigation, offer encouragement to the speculator. On the other hand, the remoteness of the province, the difficulty of access, the paucity of labour, the severity of the climate, and the existing canal system, are all obstacles in the way of improvement.

38. Finally, I have the honor to submit a Statement of the expenditure incurred in the completion of this Settlement, from its commencement in February 1855 till the 15th of July 1860, from which date the establishment has been discharged.

I have &c.

G. W. HAMILTON.

*Commissioner and Superintendent,  
Mooltan Division.*



No. 29 of 1859.

FROM

**J. H. MERRIS ESQUIRE,**

*Settlement Officer,*

*Mooltan,*

TO

**LIEUTENANT COLONEL G. W. HAMILTON,**

*Commissioner and Superintendent,*

*Mooltan Division.*

*DATED CAMP MOOLTAN, THE 24TH FEBRUARY 1859.*

SIR

I have the honor herewith to submit a report on the settlement of the

Appendix **A.** Report on Tahseel Surai Sidhee.  
Appendix **B.** Report on Tahseel Mooltan.  
Appendix **C.** Report on Tahseel Myhee.  
Appendix **D.** Report on Tahseel Shoojahbad.  
Appendix **E.** Report on Tahseel Lodran.  
Appendix **F.** Report on culture and manufacture of Indigo.  
Appendix **G.** Remissible Jumas; rivers Chenab, Ravee, and Sutlej.  
Appendix **H.** Remissible Jumas; chenab Canals.  
Appendix **J.** Remissible Jumas; Sutlej Canals.  
Five Mouzahwar Assessment Statements, one for each Tahseel.

Mooltan District, revised under Regulation IX of 1833, together with the statements noted in the margin\*, which in addition to containing detailed statistical data, will,

I think, furnish you with full information regarding all the most important operations of this settlement.

2.—The Mooltan District is situated at the southern extremity of the Baree Doab, and occupies a superficial area of 5865 square miles. It is bounded on one side by the river Chenab, and on the other by the Sutlej. Towards the north, where it borders on the District of Googaira, it may be generally described as a barren waste in the centre, with fringes of luxuriant cultivation on its edges; but as we proceed further down the District, we find these fringes gradually expanding, until at last, some few miles above the junction of the rivers, they extend very nearly, if not quite, across the Doab.

3.—This District is divided into five Tahseels, three of which are situated on the Chenab, in the following order, Surai-sidhee, Mooltan and Shoojahbad; and

two on the Sutlej, viz : Mylsee, and Lodran. For a full and detailed description of each of these Tehseels, their position, character, and all other important and statistical information regarding them, *vide* the appendices attached to this Report.

4.—The general condition also of this tract, its cultivation, and produce, the habits of the people, and their character as Malgozars, the prevailing tenures, and peculiar village institutions, the quality of the soil, and the nature of the irrigation, the past fiscal history of this district, and its present condition, the working of the past settlements, and operations of the present, the assessment fixed on, and the amount of reduction proposed by me in each Tehseel respectively, together with all other data, statistical or otherwise, having been fully dwelt on by me in the appendices and statements annexed to this report, I need not now recapitulate them, but will proceed to notice briefly the general principles which have guided me in making my assessment, the fiscal results of the settlement, its future working, and several points of interest connected with the same.

5.—The principles upon which I have proceeded in assessing the Government revenue of this district have been :—

First, to divide off the area to be assessed into a certain number of circles or chuks, each to include all villages, which, with reference to situation, soil, irrigation, and general productive capacity, could be classed together.

Secondly, to fix rates which approximately represented the amount of Government revenue per acre, payable by the various descriptions of land in each chuk, under circumstances of average prosperity, and from them calculate broadly the amount claimable from each village.

Thirdly, wherever necessary, to make such addition to, or reduction from, the total so arrived at, as, with reference to certain peculiarities in the village to be assessed, appeared necessary or advisable.

6.—With reference to the Chukwar subdivision, three circles have appeared to me sufficient for all practical purposes. It was evident at once that there must be one chuk including the low lands on the river bank, and another for the high lands in, and on the skirts of, the Bar, so that it only remained to determine the number of intermediate chuks between the two; and, on examining the district closely, I had no hesitation in deciding that one would be sufficient,—so narrow, generally speaking, is the debatable ground between the two extremes.

7.—It will be observed, therefore, on reference to the annexed appendices, that I have followed out the leading principle of this chukwar arrangement in my assessment of all the five Tahseels of this District, viz : that all the villages of each Tahseel separately will fall into one or other of the three following circles :— *Khadir*,



*Bangur, and Rawa*,—notwithstanding that in two Tehseels, Mooltan and Shoojahbad, classification of estates was found necessary, and in a third, Mylsee, a subdivision of a two of the chuks deemed expedient.

8.—And I must here explain that I have throughout kept these chuks strictly topographical, allowing no consideration of caste, tenure, past or present prosperity or calamity, to influence my judgment in assigning to each village its place in one or other of the chuks, according to its local position, the character of its soil, and its natural facilities for irrigation.

9.—This is highly essential, if the settlement officer is to leave behind him an intelligible record of his operations for the use of the Collector; and I have accordingly endeavoured in the present settlement not only to fix an amount which shall be carefully adapted to the peculiarities of each village in detail, but also to show clearly to the Collector of the Juma so fixed, to what class the village belonged, what are the rates considered fair for an average village of that class, and the reasons why the amount so fixed, exceeded, equalled, or fell short of, such average rates.

10.—Thus, in certain instances, considerations of peculiar prosperity, or remarkable advantages over the average of the class, may have warranted an increase on the average rates; whilst in others peculiar local disadvantages may have rendered average rates unfair, or considerations of humanity and policy pointed to easy terms, as the only means of rescuing a village from temporary embarrassment, brought on by an unusually bad season or other misfortune; or perhaps peculiarity of caste or tenure may have rendered it hopeless to collect average rates, and the choice thus lay between abating the legitimate demand, or breaking down the estate.

11. It is comparatively a simple matter to make chuks, calculate rates, and then strike out from the Chuk lists all villages, which, from some of the causes above detailed, are clearly incapable of standing average rates, and transfer them to some Chuk whose rates are suited to their capacities. Such a Settlement looks very plausible, and might work well; but, if difficulty should arise at any future time, the Collector would find himself, if not absolutely deceived, at least hopelessly ignorant of the real data on which the assessment had been based. Rates are at best only a broad basis on which to ground an assessment, but to expect that Chuks or rates can be so perfectly planned or calculated, that the rates of each Chuk shall give an equitable assessment for every village in that Chuk, seems to me hopeless, and I have accordingly not attempted it.

12. Such then are the leading principles which have guided me in making my assessment, as far as regards the formation of Chuks, and application of deduced revenue rates; and I will now proceed to notice one other point closely connected with

the assessment, before giving the fiscal results of my proposed Settlement :—this is, whether it will be advisable or not to retain the system introduced at the second Summary settlement, of annual measurements and variable Jumas for all lands subject to inundation from the rivers.

13.—This system was introduced by the Deputy Commissioner at the second Summary settlement, on the ground that the returns from these “sylaba” lands were so precarious, that a fixed Jamma for a number of years could not be regularly collected from them. Now there can be no doubt but that some of the “sylaba” lands in this district, especially those on the Sutlej, are liable to considerable variations, but still I am of opinion that the amount of such lands is trifling, compared with those from which the returns are tolerably secure.

14.—The returns from all sylaba lands must be in some measure uncertain, but still I see no reason why they should be more so in this District than in others also subject to the action of these very rivers, and from which permanent Jumas are regularly realized. Moreover the following strong objections may be urged against the present system.

1st.—It entails annual measurements, which are in my opinion highly objectionable, being injurious in their effects, inquisitorial in their nature, and affording great opportunities and inducements for fraud.

2ndly. It is detrimental to the interests of Government, and entails a loss of Government revenues, there being comparatively speaking very few instances in which the measurement has not been followed by reduction on the Jumas as fixed at the Second Summary Settlement, notwithstanding that some of the past seasons have been considered highly favorable.

3rdly. It is unpopular, nearly all the proprietors of the more important river villages having petitioned me for a fixed and permanent assessment.

4thly. It is entirely opposed to the fundamental principle of our revenue Settlement, and at the best but little better than a system of “Kham Tahseel.”

15. For the above reasons, therefore, I do not advocate a continuance of the past system; and my proposed assessment has accordingly been made on the understanding, that for the future the revenue from these lands will be collected in the same manner as from all others, subject of course to the ordinary and regular rules regarding increment and decrement, similarly as with all other such lands in the Punjab.

16. But, though strongly opposed to any regular system of annual measurements and variable Jumas, still it seems to me quite possible, in consequence of the variable nature of the irrigation afforded by both the rivers and canals, that in some

particular seasons, a remission of a portion of the revenue in certain classes of villages may be found both expedient and necessary. Such instances will be rare, and may probably not occur within the term of the settlement, but still being possible, owing to the peculiar and uncertain nature of the irrigation, I have considered it advisable to provide against such, by proposing a general remission to be granted to the tract so affected.

17.—With this view, therefore, I have prepared lists (vide Appendices G. H. and J.) of all the villages irrigated by each of the rivers and canals respectively, together with the amount of revenue in each, a portion or the whole of which will be liable to remission, according as the irrigation has failed partially, or in toto. And here I must explain, that these arrangements are meant by me to provide for instances of *general* failure of irrigation in any tract, which no assessment, however light, can provide for, and not to meet individual or trifling cases of a deficient supply of water, for which the very moderate assessment proposed by me ought to suffice: whilst of course the percentage of remission to be granted, must depend on the nature and extent of the failure experienced.

18.—For instance,—assume that there has been a great and general failure of the Sutlej inundation in any particular year, and that after investigation it is deemed necessary to remit 25 per cent of the revenue; then the amount to be remitted will, according to Appendix G, No. 2, be 25 per cent, or one fourth of Rupees 15,845 viz Rupees 3961, of which each of the 138 villages watered by the Sutlej will receive its quota, in proportion to the amount entered against it in the above mentioned Statement. So again with the canals;—should there be a general failure in any particular canal, and remission of revenue be deemed necessary, the District officer will first have to determine on the percentage of reduction required, and then calculate the amount that will be due to each of the villages watered by the canal, as shown in appendix H or J.

19.—In short then, though strongly opposed to any regular system of annual measurements, and variable jumas, on account of any particular description of lands, still I am of opinion, that in a district like that of Mooltan, with its shifting Sylaba, and uncertain canal irrigation, a *general* remission of a portion of the revenue in certain tracts will, in some extreme instances, be found highly desirable; and accordingly, I have grouped together all the villages situated in such tracts, and calculated for each, from the statistical data furnished by my settlement records, the amount of revenue dependant on the particular description of irrigation, on account of the partial or total failure of which, it may hereafter be deemed advisable to grant remissions in any one year. Such then is the general principle on which I have proceeded in assessing these lands, and the adoption of which I strongly advocate in the future working of

this settlement : whilst for any further information and statistical data regarding these remissible Jummas, I must refer to the detailed statements attached to this Report.

20.—The general fiscal result of my proposed settlement is as follows :—

| NAME OF TAHSEEL.   | 1st<br>Summary<br>Settlement. | 2nd<br>Summary<br>Settlement. | Proposed<br>Settlement. | REMARKS.   |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Serace Sidhoo, ... | 44,951                        | 48,723                        | 41,387                  | The proposed Juma does not include that for Dates which has been fixed at about Rs. 2,100. |
| Mooltan, ...       | 99,972                        | 1,11,101                      | 93,131                  | The proposed Juma does not include that for Dates which has been fixed at about Rs. 3,400. |
| Mylsee, ...        | 1,27,951                      | 1,50,348                      | 1,01,177                | The proposed Juma does not include that for Dates which has been fixed at about Rs. 1,850. |
| Lodran, ...        | 1,73,923                      | 1,42,478                      | 1,12,086                | The proposed Juma does not include that for Dates which has been fixed at about Rs. 220.   |
| Shoojabad, ...     | 1,42,123                      | 1,46,709                      | 1,22,825                | The proposed Juma does not include that for Dates which has been fixed at about Rs. 200.   |
| TOTAL. ...         | 5,92,948                      | 5,79,861                      | 4,70,906                | The proposed Juma does not include that for Dates which has been fixed at about Rs. 7,770. |

21.—From the foregoing it will be seen, that I propose to grant a total reduction of Rupees 1,08,958 or 18½ per cent. on the present Juma of the 2nd : Summary Settlement. At first sight this amount may perhaps appear unnecessarily large, and will very probably be deemed more than was actually required to bring this District into good order : but I am sanguine that a careful perusal of my remarks, as given in detail in the annexed appendices, on the assessment of each Tahseel separately, will clearly prove, that there has been no unnecessary sacrifice of Government revenue ; whilst, on the other hand, the following general and cogent reasons may be brought forward in favor of granting so large an amount of reduction, and fixing a really light assessment for this District.

22.—They are as follows :—the isolated position of several of the Tahseels : the absence of trade, and want of markets : the general inferiority of the soil and cultivation, and the variable nature of the river inundation : the nomad character of the people, their idleness, improvidence, and aversion to money payments : the uncertainty and expense of the Canal irrigation, much increased by the heavy burden of the annual clearance : the scantiness of the population, great want of cultivators, and low value of landed property : the sales and mortgages, particularly in Tahseels Mylsee and Lodran : the numerous desertions into the Bhawalpoor Territory, and general discontent consequent on past over-assessment : the large amount of land “ lately abandoned,” and number of wells deserted : the unsatisfactory working of the Summary Settlements, and extreme difficulty of the past collections : the balances,—more than Ru-

pees 9,000 having been remitted in 1857-58:—and last, though not least, the fact, that for the future there will be no variable Jumas as heretofore, the entire assessment being considered permanent for the term of Settlement.

23.—The announcement of the assessment has been accomplished with ease, the engagements having been entered into most readily by the head men, without the occurrence of a single case of regular refusal. This will, I trust, be considered satisfactory, for at the 2nd Summary Settlement, in addition to several estates being made over to farmers, it was found most difficult to induce any of the proprietors to accept the office of Lumberdar, and engage for the revenue; whilst now nearly every proprietor of importance asserts his right to the “Lumberdaree,” and has given in a “Durkhast” for the proposed Juma.

24.—The preparation of the record of rights has been completed in the two Tahseels of Surae Sidhoo and Mylsee, and is now progressing in the three other Tahseels of this District. The form of the record prepared for each village separately has been fully explained by me in my letter No. 8, dated 7th January 1858, to your address, and I have now only to add, that the principle there laid down by me, has since been strictly carried out, great care having been taken that no useless or superfluous papers were introduced.

25.—The two principal points to which attention has been chiefly directed have been, the attestation of the holdings, and the distribution of the revenue; the former having been invariably carried on under the personal superintendence of the presiding officer, whilst the latter has in almost every instance been effected by the people themselves, the majority of whom, having learnt experience from the “khewuts” of the 2nd Summary Settlement, have been fully alive to their own interests, and to the great importance of making the distribution according to the actual and *bona fide* capabilities of the soil. I am sanguine, therefore, that the record of rights and liabilities, as now proposed for this district, will hereafter prove practically useful in the future working of the Settlement.

26.—The nature of the tenures prevalent in this district will be found fully detailed in the appendices annexed to this report. The most striking of these is the “Chukdaree,”—the Chukdar, or owner of the well, being an intermediate person between the original proprietor of the soil, and the cultivator. I need not here enter into an explanation of the origin of this tenure, but I must not omit to add, that it is almost entirely owing to the existence of these Chukdars, that this district owes its present state of comparative prosperity.

27.—These Chukdars are almost invariably wealthy Kurars, who by the application of labor and capital have greatly improved the productive powers of the soil: they are the real malgoozars to whom Government must look for the realization of its

revenue, for, although a very grasping and avaricious race, they still make very fair landlords; and never rest satisfied until they have realized for themselves a handsome profit in the form of net rent, here commonly known as "Huq kussoor."

28.—The Chukdars, when not cultivating themselves, invariably realize in kind from the cultivators: actual rent rates, therefore, in contra-distinction to revenue rates cannot be said to exist here, the actual net rent of the "Chukdar" being the *bona fide* profit he realizes after payment of the Government revenue, defraying all expenses &c. It is this net profit which is known here as "Kussoor." In the rich Tahseels of Shoojahbad and Mooltan this "Kussoor" is often equal to 50 per cent. of the Government revenue, and I have even known instances where a sum equal to the Government revenue, or 100 per cent. on the Juma, has been refused in lieu of the "Kussoor,"—a striking proof of the moderation of the assessment. Where the Chukdar is not in actual possession of the well, his "Huq Kussoor" is generally 2 seers in the maund, or one-twentieth of the gross produce, equal to 25 per cent on the Government revenue, calculated at one-fifth of the gross produce.

29.—The majority of the litigated cases, (and they have amounted to 424 since the commencement of the Settlement,) have been on account of this "Kussoor." The most important of these are the claims of the Mooltanee Pattans to "Kussoor," but as all such had been decided and disposed of in the District Courts prior to the commencement of Settlement operations, it does not appear to me necessary to advert to them particularly in this report. A good many claims have also been brought forward by the Gurdeezee Syuds and others to the original proprietary right of certain villages: these have been carefully investigated, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  Seer in the maund fixed as "Malikana," or "wajib Zemindaree," where the claim has been clearly proved, and the period of dispossession found not to exceed 12 years.

30.—The investigation of the "Mafees," and other rent free claims, had been conducted chiefly in the District Office: the completion, however, of these investigations, as also the preparation of English Statements for all claims recommended for release in perpetuity, has fallen on this Department; this has been carefully carried out, so that, I think, all cases of this description may now be considered as finally disposed of.

31.—In the appointment of Lumberdars care has been taken to disturb existing arrangements as little as possible: wherever practicable, the former Lumberdars have been confirmed in their appointments, but in several instances I have found it necessary to appoint others, the Lumberdars of the Summary Settlement having been found not only utterly incompetent, but without any real or ancestral claim to the post in question. Where the original proprietor of the estate also held wells or land as a Chukdar, he has generally been appointed Lumberdar; but where his only claim to the estate was the realization of "Malikana" in the form of "wajib zamindaree,"

then some one or more of the real malgoozars (Chukdars) have been appointed.

32.—The Putwaree establishment has been thoroughly reorganized, and the marking off of Putwarees circles carefully done; the average pay of each Putwaree being about Rupees 100 or Rupees 8 per mensem. They will, I think, be found really efficient; all having been carefully trained in this Department, and actively employed from the commencement of Settlement operations in the preparation of the Settlement records.

33.—I ought perhaps to have mentioned ere this, that my proposed assessment does not include the amount to be realized from lands separately leased for a term of years, under the rules formerly promulgated under the Board of Administration. In several instances, indeed, I have found it necessary to revise these leases, and regularly assess the lands, but all such have been done with your special sanction; whilst with respect to the remainder, the leases will hold good for the several terms for which they have been respectively granted; enhancement having been imposed by me only in those cases, where the amount of land in possession of the lessee has been found to be considerably in excess of that stated in the lease.

34.—Since the announcement of the assessment, 144 wells, and 5,250 acres of land, situated in the waste lands of the Government Jungles, have also been leased by myself, for the term of Settlement, at a maximum assessment of Rupees 2,384. I have found the people very anxious to repair old wells, or sink new, in the Government Jungles, provided they could obtain the same on easy terms; and as several objections have been raised to the progressive rates hitherto in vogue here, not so much on account of their severity, as from the fact of the enhancement year by year being found to be very irksome, I have in lieu adopted the following, which have given universal satisfaction:—

*Wells*, 60 beegas, 2 years rent free, then Rs. 14.

*Ditto*, 100 beegas, 2 years' rent free, then Rs. 20.

*Canal Lands*, 1 year rent free; 1 year, 4 annas per beegah, and then, 8 annas per beegah.

35.—I think I have now touched on all the more important points connected with the settlement of this District. The inundation canals, and the arrangements proposed by me for their future management, have already formed the subject of a separate and detailed report: whilst with respect to the assessment of the baranee lands, the "Trinneer," "Sujjee," and other extra dues, all these matters have been fully discussed by me in separate letters to your address, or that of the Financial Commissioner. All that now remains to be done is the completion of the khewuts &c. in the three Tahseels

of Mooltan, Shaojabad, and Lodran, and the preparation of the final English statistical Statements No. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, to ensure which, the arrangements proposed were found amply sufficient.

33.—I will now, in conclusion, proceed to offer a few remarks on the future working of this settlement. It is now nearly twelve months since the revised assessment was announced : during the period, I have visited every portion of the District, and made diligent enquiries as to the nature of the settlement ; the result is, that I can now confidently pronounce the assessment to be a really light one ; every where the people appear contented and satisfied, whilst the number of new wells that have been dug, the large amount of " lately abandoned " land brought under cultivation, and the return of nearly every former defaulter or absentee, to claim the land which he only a few years ago abandoned of his own accord, is, I think, conclusive proof of the moderation of the settlement, and the beneficial results accruing therefrom.

37.—Still, notwithstanding this, I cannot hold myself responsible for the future successful working of this settlement, unless the following important points be properly and efficiently provided for.

1st.—The future canal arrangements :— these must be such as to provide a *regular* and *early* supply of water.

2ndly.—The preparation of monthly lists of all deserted wells and uncleared cuts, for the repair of which liberal tuccavee advances should be made.

3rdly.—The granting of prompt remission in all cases coming under the category noticed in paras. 16 to 19 of this report.

4thly.—The granting of suspension of demand in all cases of actual loss by diluvian, in lieu of the present system of collection first, and a refund afterwards, when the fact of diluvian has been verified by measurement.

5thly.—The future working of the canal system, which must be most carefully watched, to prevent a recurrence of what has hitherto taken place, or even the possibility of failure.

MOOLTAN SETTLEMENT OFFICE,  
Camp Mooltan,  
The 24th of February 1859.

}

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient servant.  
J. H. MORRIS,  
Settlement Officer.



**STATEMENT showing area, Jumma, Revenue**

| NUMBER. | NAME OF TAHSEEL.    | Khalas and Jageer. | REGULAR SETTLEMENT. |            |           |        |         |              |               |          |
|---------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------|-----------|--------|---------|--------------|---------------|----------|
|         |                     |                    | Land Juma.          | Date Juma. | Nuzerana. | Sujee. | Tirnee. | Leased Juma. | Baranee Juma. | Total.   |
| 1       | Mooltan. — — —      | Khalasa,           | 97,449              | 3,411      | 271       | 150    | ...     | 5,276        | 7             | 1,06,564 |
|         |                     | Jageer,            | 6,573               | ...        | ...       | ...    | ...     | ...          | ...           | 6,573    |
|         |                     | Total,             | 1,01,022            | 3,411      | 271       | 150    | ..      | 5,276        | 7             | 1,13,137 |
| 2       | Surat-sidhee.       | Khalasa,           | 41,785              | 2,216      | 285       | ...    | ...     | 3,589        | ...           | 47,875   |
|         |                     | Jageer,            | 621                 | 150        | ...       | ...    | ...     | ...          | ...           | 771      |
|         |                     | Total,             | 42,406              | 2,366      | 285       | ...    | ..      | 3,589        | ..            | 48,646   |
| 3       | Mylsee.             | Khalasa,           | 1,01,949            | 1,855      | 155       | 287    | 65      | 1,401        | 2319          | 1,08,031 |
|         |                     | Jageer,            | 22                  | ..         | ...       | ..     | ...     | ...          | ...           | 22       |
|         |                     | Total,             | 1,01,971            | 1,855      | 155       | 287    | 65      | 1,401        | 2319          | 1,08,053 |
| 4       | Lodran: — — —       | Khalasa,           | 1,13,858            | 217        | 48        | ...    | ..      | 1,042        | ...           | 1,15,165 |
|         |                     | Jageer,            | ...                 | ...        | ...       | ...    | ...     | ...          | ..            | ...      |
|         |                     | Total,             | 1,13,858            | 217        | 48        | ...    | ...     | 1,042        | ...           | 1,15,165 |
| 5       | Shoojahbad. — — ..  | Khalasa,           | 1,17,522            | 198        | ...       | ...    | ..      | 1,824        | ...           | 1,19,544 |
|         |                     | Jageer,            | 300                 | ...        | ...       | ...    | ..      | ...          | ...           | 300      |
|         |                     | Total,             | 1,17,822            | 198        | ..        | ...    | ...     | 1,824        | ...           | 1,19,844 |
|         | Zillah Total — — .. | Khalasa,           | 4,72,563            | 7,897      | 759       | 437    | 65      | 13,132       | 2326          | 4,97,179 |
|         |                     | Jageer,            | 7,516               | 150        | ...       | ...    | ..      | ...          | ...           | 7,666    |
|         | Grand Total. — — .. |                    | 4,80,079            | 8,047      | 759       | 437    | 65      | 13,132       | 2326          | 5,04,845 |

N. B. The statistics here shown are only for the estates which

# Rates, population &c. of the Mooltan district.

| AREA    |                  |                      |                                   |             |             |                              |      |                                  |       | POPULA                            |      |                |         |            |
|---------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|------|----------------|---------|------------|
| Manfee. | Barren or waste. | Fit for cultivation. | Lately thrown out of cultivation. | Cultivated. | Total area. | Rate per acre on total area. |      | Rate per acre on Malgozars land. |       | Rate per acre on cultivated land. |      | No. of Mahals. | Hindos. | Mosulmans. |
| 6,666   | 67,448           | 1,36,747             | 14,331                            | 90,375      | 3,15,507    | ..                           | 4 11 | ...                              | 6 5   | 1 1 2                             | 233  | 33,122         | 92,44   |            |
| 2       | 3,471            | 3,977                | 651                               | 5,552       | 12,653      | ...                          | 7 8  | ...                              | 10 4  | 1 2 11                            | 4    |                |         |            |
| 6,668   | 70,919           | 1,40,724             | 14,982                            | 95,927      | 3,20,220    | ...                          | 5 1  | ...                              | 6 7   | 1 1 2                             | 257  |                |         |            |
| 7,087   | 34,369           | 1,32,920             | 6,457                             | 59,574      | 2,40,157    | ...                          | 2 9  | ...                              | 3 4   | .. 11 3                           | 240  | 8,512          | 43,92   |            |
| 27      | 205              | 1,624                | 199                               | 702         | 2,637       | ...                          | 3 6  | ...                              | 3 9   | ... 12 3                          | 1    |                |         |            |
| 7,114   | 34,374           | 1,34,544             | 6,646                             | 60,155      | 2,42,034    | ...                          | 2 10 | ...                              | 3 4   | .. 11 3                           | 241  |                |         |            |
| 4,745   | 1,99,720         | 2,22,757             | 34,729                            | 1,24,077    | 5,80,023    | ...                          | 2 9  | ..                               | 4 3   | ... 13 1                          | 434  | 19,695         | 81,80   |            |
| ...     | 52               | 56                   | 11                                | 21          | 140         | ..                           | 2 6  | ..                               | 4 ... | 1 ... 9                           | ...  |                |         |            |
| 4,745   | 1,99,772         | 2,22,813             | 34,740                            | 1,24,098    | 5,80,103    | ..                           | 2 5  | ...                              | 4 3   | ... 13 2                          | 434  |                |         |            |
| 2,046   | 1,29,326         | 1,47,896             | 38,998                            | 99,568      | 4,17,824    | ..                           | 4 4  | ...                              | 6 4   | 1 2 3                             | 174  | 11,649         | 65,78   |            |
| ..      | ...              | ...                  | ...                               | ...         | ...         | ...                          | ...  | ...                              | ...   | ...                               | ...  |                |         |            |
| 2,046   | 1,29,326         | 1,47,896             | 38,998                            | 99,568      | 4,17,824    | ..                           | 4 4  | ...                              | 6 4   | 1 2 3                             | 174  |                |         |            |
| 3,706   | 47,191           | 72,259               | 8,774                             | 61,447      | 1,93,377    | ..                           | 9 9  | ...                              | 13 2  | 1 14 7                            | 79   | 9,622          | 44,82   |            |
|         | 332              | 770                  | 13                                | 288         | 1,403       | ...                          | 3 5  | ...                              | 4 6   | 1 ... 8                           | ...  |                |         |            |
| 3,706   | 47,523           | 73,029               | 8,787                             | 61,735      | 1,94,780    | ..                           | 9 8  | ...                              | 13 1  | 1 14 6                            | 79   |                |         |            |
| 24,250  | 4,78,054         | 7,12,579             | 1,03,279                          | 4,34,841    | 17,53,003   | ...                          | 4 1  | ..                               | 6 ... | 1 1 5                             | 1160 |                |         |            |
| 29      | 4,060            | 6,427                | 874                               | 6,643       | 18,033      | ...                          | 6 8  | ...                              | 8 7   | 1 2 1                             | 5    |                |         |            |
| 21,279  | 4,82,114         | 7,19,006             | 1,04,153                          | 4,41,484    | 17,71,036   | ...                          | 4 4  | ..                               | 6 1   | 1 1 5                             | 1165 | 82,600         | 3,29,34 |            |

have been brought under the operation of the Regular Settlement.

NO. 23.

To

**THE OFFICIATING FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER,**

*for the Punjab.*

DATED LAHORE, 5TH SEPTEMBER, 1860.

SIR,

In reply to your letter No. 776 of 23rd Ultimo, I am directed to inform you  
that the Hon'ble the Lieutenant Governor sanctions the settlement  
REVENUE. of the Moolhan District for a term of ten years proposed by you.

2.—The thanks of the Government are due to Mr. Morris for the ability and judgment with which the Settlement operations have been conducted, and for the complete report which he has furnished.

3.—The acknowledgments of the Lieutenant Governor are also made to Lieutenant Colonel Hamilton, for bringing to a conclusion such parts of the Settlement as Mr. Morris' departure left unfinished.

4.—I am to request that the report be printed under your superintendence, together with your able and interesting summary.

I have &c.,

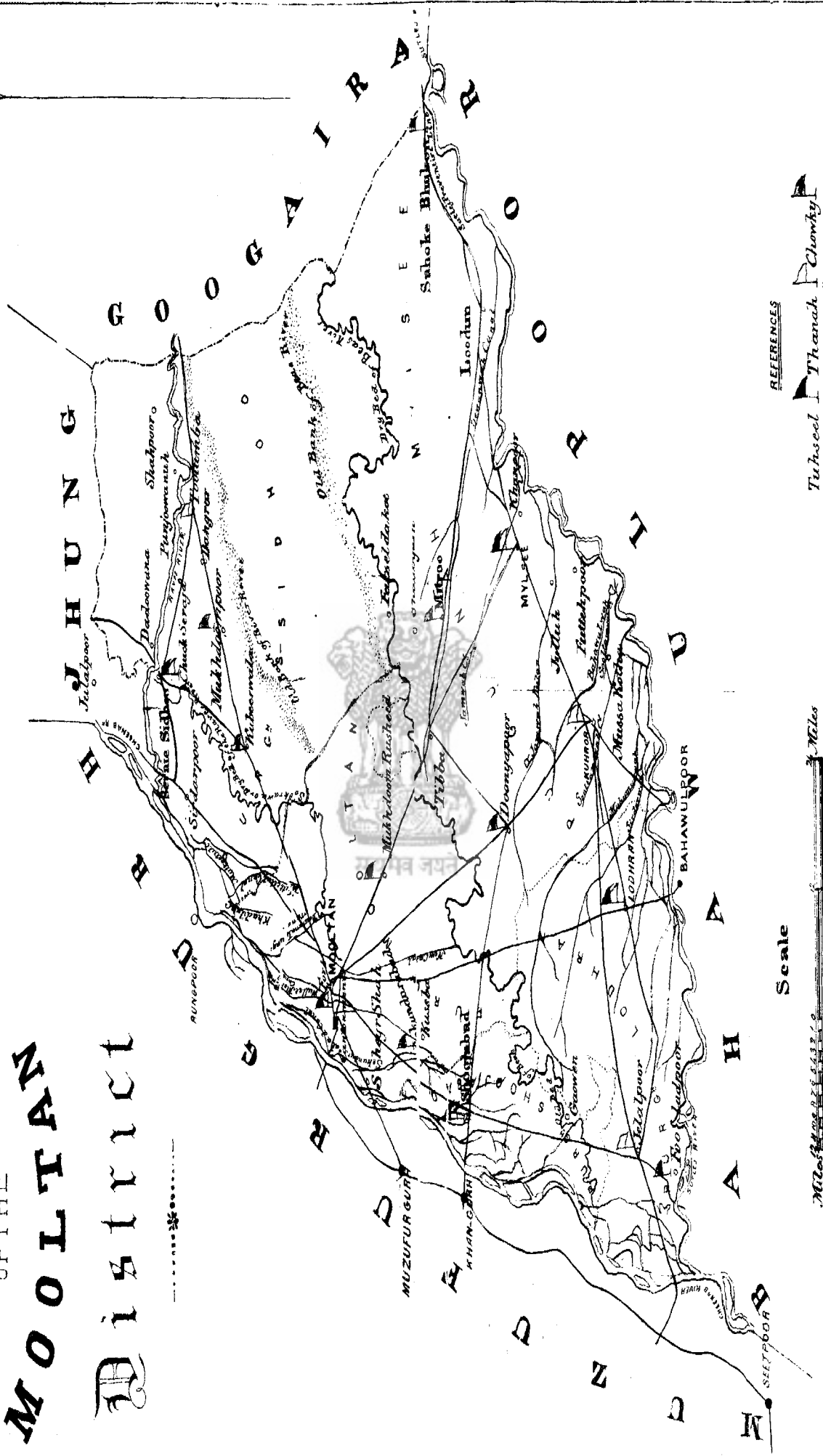
**R. H. DAVIES,**

*Secretary to Government,*

*Punjab.*



# Map OF THE MOOLTAN District



REFERENCES  
Tuhseel P. Chowky

Scale  
Miles